

assigned to operations in the Gulf of Tonkin aboard the USS *Cimarron*. As a communications specialist, he was responsible for directing replenishment activities including dealing with classified cargo supplies for aircraft carriers and their escorts. Following two tours of duty in Vietnam, Richard served on assignments with SEAL Team 119 and ultimately retired in 1986.

Chief Petty Officer Lerma earned the National Defense Service Medal, 20 Year Good Conduct Medal, Navy Sharpshooter w/E, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge, and numerous unit awards and service ribbons.

Following service, Richard attended the San Diego Academy and was later appointed to the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. His role would lead him to an assignment at the International Border and a promotion to a K-9 Narcotic Enforcement Officer dealing with international smugglers, human traffickers, and undercover operations with various federal agencies. Following 9/11, Lerma was transferred to Customs and Border Protection where he would work until his retirement in 2014.

Mr. Lerma has earned a reputation as a respected member of our local veterans community and has worked tirelessly to assist veterans with education and relief programs. Richard is an active member of Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Collin County Veterans Coalition. He also dedicates his time to assisting with two prison ministries where he visits incarcerated military inmates who have lost their way. Richard Lerma has led a tremendous life of service to our county and is to be commended for his many efforts.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Chief Petty Officer Lerma for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT GINGER GERSBACHER

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Senior Master Sergeant D. Ginger Gersbacher, who retired from the United States Air Force (USAF) on July 29, 2021 after more than 29 years of military service.

A native of Central New York and graduate of C.W. Baker High School and the State University of New York at Morrisville, Sergeant Gersbacher enlisted into the New York Air National Guard in June 1992. After completing basic training as well as technical school training as an Instrument and Flight Control Systems Specialist, she returned to Syracuse in January 1993 to serve in the 174th Attack Wing. Within the unit, Sergeant Gersbacher served as an Avionics Technician with the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and later accept-

ed a part time position in the Maintenance Operations Center. While serving in these positions, Sergeant Gersbacher also returned to school to complete a Baccalaureate Degree in Computer Science from Columbia College, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

Later, Sergeant Gersbacher was deployed and supported combat missions, participating in Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Northern Watch, and Operation Southern Watch. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, she volunteered for active duty and served with the 174th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard during Operation Noble Eagle, flying air patrol missions over New York City. Later, Sergeant Gersbacher reassigned as a maintenance analyst and was deployed three more times from 2006 to 2008, participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2014, Sergeant Gersbacher established the Inspector General Office of Inspections within the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, and maintained her position in the Inspector General's Office until her retirement.

For her service, Sergeant Gersbacher has earned numerous awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Senior Master Sergeant Ginger Gersbacher for her nearly three decades of honorable service. I wish Sergeant Gersbacher the best in her retirement.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND MATTZ

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Raymond Mattz, who passed away at the age of 79 on September 2, 2021. Raymond was a revered elder of the Yurok Tribe who fought for his people's fishing rights and their reservation, including in a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Raymond grew up in Requa, at the mouth of the Klamath River. Though his Yurok ancestors had signed a treaty with the U.S. government in 1855, it was not ratified, which led the state of California to open the Yurok Reservation to white settlement in 1892. This meant tribal fishermen had to obtain permits to fish, which severely limited the catch that the Yurok people had depended on since time immemorial. After being cited by a game warden for fishing, Raymond contested his case in state court, and then finally in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973.

The Supreme Court overturned California's assertion that the reservation was no longer Yurok country. Following the ruling, the state turned jurisdiction of the reservation to the federal government, which banned fishing outright and led to the salmon wars of 1978. Raymond was a leader among fishermen who continued to fish despite being targets of federal agents who often violently accosted them and confiscated gear. His efforts helped lead to the establishment of the Yurok Tribe's fishing

rights on the Klamath River. Raymond also served on the Yurok Tribal Council and was a member of the Yurok Cultural and Natural Resources committees.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Raymond's family, friends, and tribe; and in expressing our deep appreciation for his decades of contribution to tribal rights and the Yurok Tribe.

#### ALTHAUS LAW

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Althaus Law of Northglenn, Colorado for earning the City of Northglenn's Small Business of the Year Award.

The Small Business of the Year Award recognizes a local business with up to twenty employees that had an outstanding year of business and leadership in the community. Althaus Law, led by founder Jeff Althaus, is dedicated to estate law in Colorado, helping countless families plan for their future through real estate investing. With an emphasis on giving back to the community, Althaus Law is an engaged and valued small business in Northglenn.

Congratulations to Althaus Law for receiving this award and I wish them all the best in the future. I thank them for their contribution to our community.

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT CHARLES "CHUCK" DANIELS, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Lieutenant Charles "Chuck" Daniels of Allen, Texas.

Lieutenant Daniels faithfully served our nation in the United States Navy from 1979 to 1984. His selfless service included support for American actions during the Iran Hostage Crisis.

For his efforts, Lieutenant Daniels was awarded the Sea Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Ribbon, and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.